

## Response to Questions by William Boone

- 2) I am in full agreement with the primary functions of the CRC as outlined in the Ordinance creating the Commission. Within the framework of the Ordinance, the CRC is not simply a sounding board but functions as an agency established to solve community problems and to make recommendations to the Mayor and the Board of Alderman that will help bring about these solutions. Its Commission is also empowered to investigate complaints and to act as a conciliator in confrontations between individuals and/or groups.
- 3) The CRC was created primarily to work on solving the problems of Atlanta's disadvantaged citizens, both black and white. Since some of the most serious problems of the City exist in the low income black neighborhoods, the CRC has, in the past, directed most of its attention there.
- 4) The CRC can best serve the people of Atlanta by doing all it can to break down the barriers of prejudice that still exist in the city and seek ways in which all Atlanta citizens can realize their full capabilities.

4) cont) The Commission can also provide an important role by providing Atlanta citizens with factual information concerning racial issues and working to break down some of the existing misconceptions and myths.

5) Presently, the CRC is one of many organizations in the City that is working to end the ghettoization of people on the basis of race, color, creed or national origin. The Commission should continue to play an active role in providing the opportunity for all Atlanta citizens to live in the housing of their choice to gain full equality in all aspects of life.

6) The CRC can be, as it has been in the past, a prime agent in pointing out existing inequities within the School System and make recommendations to alleviate these inequities. The problem of fully integrating the School System remains one of the most perplexing in the City, and it is doubtful that any one agency can be identified as the "prime mover" in bringing about full integration in the schools. Before total integration can become a reality, increased efforts must be

6 (cont.) in establishing open lines of communication between the School Board and all of Atlanta's citizens

7.) The CRC can work to assure each Atlanta citizen the right to buy or rent the housing of his or her choice and make certain that all complaints concerning discrimination in housing are thoroughly investigated. The Commission can also work with existing neighborhood fair housing groups in stimulating initiative on the part of the citizens.

8.) The CRC has not submitted any formal resolutions requesting additional powers and has been able to work quite effectively without them. If such a resolution was submitted a decision would be made on the basis of the reasons given by the Commission as to how such additional powers would improve its effectiveness.

9.) Every effort is made to choose persons who reflect the diversity of racial, ethnic, economic, political, social and professional interests that exist in our City. Consideration is also given in relation to where potential Commission members

9. cont) live within the City. Atlanta is fortunate to have such a wide range of representative talent and insight to choose from. Presently, the C.R.C. is one of the most representative and racially balanced agencies within the City.

10. Commission members should have the following qualities:

1. Commitment to the cause of social justice.
2. Proven leadership ability within the community.
3. Insight into the problems that affect the communities and the City as a whole.
4. Willingness to serve responsibly as a Commission member.

11). Apparently, many of the Aldermen that were skeptical or unsure about the role of the Community Relations Commission at its inception have now come to see the value of such a Commission. It should also be noted that Mr. Welch has made every effort to work in cooperation with the Aldermen, has encouraged their support for the work of the C.R.C. and has attempted to keep them fully informed of the Commission's activities.

13) There seems to be increasing interest in and support of the CRC from the affluent white community. Many people throughout Atlanta are finding the Commission to be a valuable agent in bringing about social change and equal opportunity for all citizens through peaceful and responsible means. Hopefully, this increasing interest will lead to the involvement of more Atlanta citizens in the efforts of the CRC.